(a) whether the Government are aware of specific cases where flow of illegal funds from the foreign countries to certain organisation has taken place during the last three years;

(b) if so, the action taken against the recipients; and

(c) the preventive measures taken by the Government to check the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) There have been instances where organisation, which are required to obtain registration/prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 before accepting any foreign contribution, have obtained such contribution without such registration/prior permission. Appropriate action under the law is taken against such organisations.

(c) The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions to all Banks in the country to ensure that foreign contribution is not credited to the account of any organisation unless it has obtained registration/prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

Artificial Pearls

594. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the locations for production of artificial pearls in India;

(b) the quantity of artificial pearls produced in the country during the last three years;

(c) the quantity of atrificial pearls imported during the last three years; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to promote production of the artificial pearls ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The locations for experimental production of artificial pearls in India are :

Gujarat	– Sikka and Okha,
Kerala	– Calicut, Kochi and Vizhinjam,
Tamil Nadu	– Tuticorin, Mandapam Camp and Chennai,
Andhra Pradesh	– Kakinada, Visakhapatnam,
Lakshadweep Group of Islands, Andaman and Nicobar Islands,	
Orissa	Kausalyagang.

(b) The quantity of artificial pearls produced experimentally with success during the last three years is approximately 5 kg.

(c) According to information provided by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, the artificial pearls worth Rs. 6925.39 lakhs were imported during the period 1992-93 to 1994-95.

(d) The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) have transferred the technology and knowhow for pearl culture through demonstration, training, education and extension, education programmes to the State Departments of Fisheries, Public Sector Undertaking and Private entrepreneurs.

Expansion of Aquaculture

595. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for the supply of quality seed, food, other inputs as erection of adequate infrastructure for storage, transporation, marketing and credit etc. for the expansion of aquaculture in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : The Government provide first year inputs such as seed, feed, fertilisers, manures, etc. to the beneficiaries for taking up freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes through Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs). These agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to farmers for fish/prawn farming. The Central Government also provides assistance to State Governments for setting up of infrastructural facilities such as, cold storages, ice plants, transportation, etc. for fish marketing.

Refugees from Bangladesh

596. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of refugees from Bangladesh living in different parts of the country for three years together;

(b) the agreement reached with Bangladesh following the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister/Foreign Minister to New Delhi with regard to deportation of Chakma and other refugees from Bangladesh; and

(c) The progress made so far in implementation of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Nearly fifty thousand refugees from Bangladesh are being maintained in Tripura since 1986.

(b) and (c) A high level delegation of Bangladesh is expected to visit Tripura soon to persuade these refugees to return to their country.

Stock of Wheat

597. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA :
SHRI K. PRADHANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the stock position of wheat at the end of July and October each year from 1994 to 1996 and at the end of December, 1996;

(b) the issue price of wheat per quintal in the said years; and

(c) the market price of wheat from July to December, 1995 and in the same period in 1996, month-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) Stock position of wheat during 1994 to 1996 is as under :

(in lakh tonnes)

1994		1995		1996		
As on 1.8.94	As on 1.11.94	As on 1.8.95	As on 1.11.95	As on 1.8.96	As on 1.11.96	As on 1.1.97
169.7	149.8	185.6	159.3	129.5	95.4	69.0

Figures are provisional.

(b) The Central Issue Price of wheat has been Rs. 402/- per quintal for PDS effective from 1.2.1994, which is still in force.

(c) A statement giving the requisite information is enclosed.